

INSIDE GARDNER

Mayor introduces “Operation G.R.O.W.” during State of the City Address

On March 2, City of Gardner Mayor Chris Morrow delivered his State of the City Address to a packed audience of residents, local business owners, public officials and employees.

In his third address to the public, Morrow introduced the city’s ongoing strategy to increase economic development activity in Gardner through an initiative called “Operation G.R.O.W.” Morrow defined Operation G.R.O.W. as a “coordinated, strategic response with actions” designed to change Gardner’s circumstances.

“Focusing on economic development will ensure we diversify our tax base and improve the financial well being of our citizens,” Morrow said.

Operation G.R.O.W. represents four steps: They are: G: Goals. R: Readiness. O: Opportunities, and W: Win.

GOALS

One of the most important goals for 2016 is to secure land through annexation, Morrow stated in his speech. He shared short-term growth areas currently under the annexation process, such as property adjacent to the intermodal and Gardner airport.

Another goal for 2016 highlighted by the Mayor is the completion of the city’s Land Development Code Rewrite.

The updated code will streamline various

processes and eliminate conflicting language that deters site developers from coming to Gardner.

READINESS

“We cannot expect economic development and growth to happen without being fully equipped,” Morrow said as he listed a number of tools the city had completed to enhance their development readiness. Some of those tools included: utility assessments, the Economic Development

Incentive Policy, the Growth Management Strategy, and a new brand identity.

OPPORTUNITIES

Recognizing past missed opportunities, Morrow made a vow that Gardner will not miss another opportunity for economic growth if it is

up to him. He stated this does not mean the city will obtain growth at any cost, but will find growth opportunities that are best for Gardner.

WIN

Lastly, Morrow shared several of Gardner’s successes and also announced the city’s most recent win—the plan to develop a nearly 300-acre, mixed-use retail and industrial project on the southeast corner of I-35 at 175th St.

A video of the entire State of the City Address will soon be available online at www.gardnerkansas.gov.



Mayor closes State of the City Address with a call to action



Mayor Chris Morrow concluded his State of the City Address by making a call to action to the public in regards to civic engagement. He emphasized the importance of public involvement and encouraged citizens to take advantage of the many public involvement opportunities that come available throughout the year.

Civic Engagement:

- Helps to ensure decisions made by the Governing Body effectively respond to the needs and priorities of the community
- Gives citizens a better understanding of municipal government policies and programs
- Engages different perspectives and ideas from citizens with various backgrounds
- Builds relationships among city and community, promoting partnerships
- Allows for more transparency and accountability

Citizens interested in public involvement opportunities should contact the City Clerk at 913.856.0945 or at cityclerk@gardnerkansas.gov.



Work Zone Awareness Week: April 11-April 15

April 11 through April 15 is National Work Zone Awareness Week. This annual spring campaign held at the start of the construction season encourages safe driving through highway work zones. This year's theme "Don't Be THAT Driver" reinforces the message that motorists should be alert and prepared for unexpected changes in and around work zones.

Attention in work zones not only affects driver safety, but the safety of road workers. These workers regularly deal with traffic whizzing by a few feet from their "office," and they rely on orange cones and speed limit signs to protect them. While drivers deal with detours

A message from **MAYOR CHRIS MORROW**

Greetings fellow citizens,

As I write this message, it appears that the famed predictor of weather, groundhog Punxsutawney Phil has accurately predicted an early end to winter. Though I'm sure some of our youngsters would have appreciated a snow day or two.

With spring all but upon us, I want to highlight some of what has happened during the first two months of 2016. First, the intersection at Moonlight Road and Lincoln Lane has a new traffic light that became operational in January and is providing safer travel and better traffic flow and control at one of the busiest commercial intersections in town. Improvements to the intersection included upgraded sidewalk ramps and pavement markings to meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.

This winter, we also saw more opportunities for residents to have their voices heard. Two town hall meetings were held as well as two citizen forums. In fact, this was the second straight year we held forums on the upcoming Fiscal Year Budget and the city's Capital Improvement Plan.



and slower traffic, road workers are risking their lives on the roads.

Here are some key safety tips to remember in roadway construction and maintenance zones to keep both you and road workers safe:

- **Follow the signs.** Follow the directions posted on orange construction signs. Even when work isn't in progress, Kansas law requires that you obey all posted signs.
- **Don't assume road workers see you.** When repaving or repairing roads, a worker's environment is dusty, loud, and very close to passing traffic. These unprotected workers are focused on their jobs, so it's up to you to focus on safety. Never assume workers will step out of the way of your car.
- **Follow the lines.** Work zones often have temporary lines on the road redirecting the flow of traffic. Look out for shifting or merging lanes, particularly if you drive this road often—you may be tempted to "autopilot" your way through.
- **Obey the work zone speed limit.** Depending on sight distances and the type of work being done, the construction speed limit could be much lower than the normal limit. Don't risk it—slow down!
- **No distractions.** While driving through a work zone, you should limit distractions. Eating, talking on the phone, listening to music and drinking coffee can take valuable seconds off your response time. Be safe and remain attentive.

Citizen involvement is also at an all-time high as each of our five new advisory committees held meetings in January and February. The new "Advisory" committees will soon provide the Governing Body recommendations on ADA compliance, parks and recreation, economic development, streets sidewalk and stormwater issues, and how to improve communication between citizens and the Gardner Police Department.

January also saw the second installment of our Citizens Academy, "Gardner YOU!" kick off.

In other community news, the voters approved a \$30 million bond issue for the Gardner-Edgerton School District. This funding will go toward a new wing addition and renovations at the high school. I applaud the school district, and its voting patrons, for preparing for an ever-increasing enrollment at the high school and for providing a better learning environment for our children.

Finally, take some time outdoors and enjoy our community. This year, I recommend participating in our Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration (and Greenway clean-up) on April 30. It is a fun event and is filled with volunteers, from the young to the young at heart, who are all filled with enthusiasm and community pride. I hope to see you there!

Best wishes everyone for a lovely spring season,

Citywide garage sale set for May 7

The annual citywide garage sale will be held on Saturday, May 7. There are several convenient places to register around town including The UPS Store, Blazer's Restaurant, and Gardner Pharmacy.

The cost to register and have your sale included on the map is \$5.00. Garage sale location maps can be purchased for \$1.00 at all of the above listed businesses, along with some of the gas stations in town on or after May 3.

All proceeds will go towards the Gardner Multi-Service Center to help someone in

need locally. For questions regarding this year's sale, please contact Dawn Mercier, of The UPS Store, at 913.856.4501.



Public invited to participate in Gardner Community Garden activities

Good things are growing at the Gardner Community Garden, and the public is invited to learn more.



The community garden, located at 555 W. Main St., consists of five acres with one acre dedicated to individuals, families, or groups interested in growing produce for themselves.

The goal of the Gardner Community Garden is to build an active and supportive community by increasing the access to freshly

grown produce while educating and encouraging current and future generations of gardeners, as well as giving back through charitable contributions.

Two upcoming events hosted by the Gardner Community Garden give the public an

opportunity to learn more about gardening:

- **Seed Planting Party:** March 11 (6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.) at the Grange Building, 136 E. Washington St. Dinner will be provided. Attendees asked to bring a dessert to share.
- **Citywide Sale:** This event is on May 7. Starter plants will be available. Check Gardner Community Garden website for location.

Helpful information about the Gardner Community Garden:

- Volunteering at the garden can serve as community service hours
- Plots are available for purchase
- Tools and equipment are provided
- Seeds and starter plants are available
- Produce donated to local charities

For more information about the Gardner Community Garden, visit www.gardnercommunitygarden.com, www.facebook.com/gardencommunitygarden, and/or send an email to gardnercommunitygarden@gmail.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

The city is looking for a licensed lawn care provider to help mow unmanaged lawns on developed and undeveloped properties. All qualified companies should contact the city's Codes Compliance Inspector at 913.856.0952 or kbutler@gardnerkansas.gov by March 31.



CITY COUNCIL

Chris Morrow, Mayor
913-269-8495 (Cell)
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913-938-6887 (Cell)
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Dr. Todd Winters, Council Vice President
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Kristy Harrison, Council Member
913-884-2115 (Home)
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Rich Melton, Council Member
913-207-7152 (Cell)
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Lee Moore, Council Member
913-938-6686 (Cell)
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Messages may also be left for any Council Member or the Mayor at 913-856-0939

CITY MANAGEMENT

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POSTAL PATRON GARDNER, KS 66030

Mark your calendars



City Council Meetings:

- Mar. 21 at 7 p.m.
- Apr. 4 at 7 p.m.
- Apr. 18 at 7 p.m.
- May 2 at 7 p.m.

*View more meeting dates at www.gardner-kansas.gov

Don't forget!

Swimming Lesson Registration

The City of Gardner will hold its annual Swimming Lesson Registration Opening Day on Saturday, April 9, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. in the lobby of Gardner City Hall, located at 120 E. Main St. (Lines could be long.)



After April 9, residents can still register for swimming lessons at City Hall, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Residents can also register online starting April 9 at 8 a.m. Participants will need to set up an account with the city's online service, ActiveNet.

Visit the city website for instructions at www.gardnerkansas.gov/swim_lessons.

Guidelines

- 1) Registration is done on a first-come, first-served basis.
- 2) Parents are allowed to register their children only.
- 3) Waivers must be signed by a legal guardian.
- 4) One class per child. Children may be enrolled in an additional class after June 6.

Registration will be accepted online and in person throughout the spring and summer. Contact the Parks and Recreation Department at 913.856.0936 for more information.



UPCOMING GARDNER PARKS AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

	Date	Registration Deadline	Age/Grade	Costs
Youth Programs				
Music Lessons	Saturdays in Mar/Apr	Thurs before class	6-17	\$19
Easter Eggstravaganza	March 12	March 7	3-12	\$15
Kid's Garage Sale	March 19	March 16	6-16	\$7
Player Development Soccer Program	March 31	March 27	5-12	\$65
Park Champion	April 1	N/A	12 and Under	Free
Swimming Lessons	April 9	Until Full	18 mo. and up	\$50
Adult/Family Programs				
Scrapbooking	March 25	Thursday before	12 and Older	\$5
Adult Spring Softball	Early April	March 11	18 and Older	\$500 /team
Women's Spring Volleyball	Apr. 5	Mar. 28	18 & Older	\$150/team
Earth Day Celebration	Apr. 23	Apr. 15	All Ages	Free
Senior Prom	Apr. 30	Apr. 22	50 & Older	\$20/couple
Gardner Grind	Aug 13	Aug 12	7 and Older	\$20*

*Register for the Gardner Grind by July 1 for \$20 registration fee; From July 2-Aug 12 fee will increase to \$30 per person.